

Mountain Roots Food Project
Scholarship Policy & Guidelines

SECTION I.

1a. Types of Educational Grants Mountain Roots Food Project (MRFP) will provide scholarships as a means of financial support to enable full-time Gunnison Valley residents to participate in learning opportunities that support the Mountain Roots Food Project mission.

1b. Purpose and Amount. The purpose of the MRFP Scholarship Project is to provide financial assistance to advance gardening, food preparation/preservation, food systems and food security, and leadership skills and knowledge in these areas. A scholarship budget is established and approved as a part of our annual budgeting process. The MRFP Scholarship Committee reviews “Venture Grant” (see below) scholarship applications quarterly.

A. Tuition Remission Mountain Roots Food Project works with the following established programs to offer tuition remission, as their programs and curriculum support the MRFP Mission and organizational objectives. MRFP establishes scholarship criteria with these programs and these programs are responsible for distributing funds according to MRFP criteria and their respective scholarship processes. Tuition remission for any single individual is not to exceed \$500.

- Colorado State Extension Office, Gunnison, CO
- City of Gunnison and Town of Crested Butte Parks and Recreation Departments
- Western State College Extended Studies, Gunnison, CO

MRFP will establish written agreements with the above programs regarding the distribution of any and all funds.

B. Venture Grants Further, MRFP offers both need-based and merit-based “Venture Grants” for individuals who want to explore other educational opportunities not represented in the list above. The Scholarship Committee, comprised of MRFP Board Members and community representatives, updates scholarship guidelines, reviews applications, determines eligibility, and grants scholarships. “Venture Grants” are not to exceed \$500.

Need-based “Venture Grant” applicants are required to submit:

1. Letter of Intent explaining:
 - a. The parameters of the program/opportunity they wish to pursue
 - b. Their learning objectives and how they align with the mission and purpose of MRFP
 - c. Specific ways they will use the knowledge and training they receive to directly benefit MRFP, its mission and programs.
2. MRFP Scholarship Application (see attachment)
3. Financial Affidavit (see attachment)

Merit-based “Venture Grant” applicants are required to submit:

1. Letter of intent explaining:
 - a. The parameters of the program/opportunity they wish to pursue
 - b. Their learning objectives and how they align with the mission and purpose of MRFP
 - c. Specific ways they will use the knowledge and training they receive to directly benefit MRFP, its mission and programs.
2. MRFP Scholarship Application (see attachment)

1c. Loans. We do not grant loans.

1d. Publicity. The Scholarship Project will be regularly featured in the Mountain Roots Food Project’s monthly e-newsletter and will be listed on the organization’s website. Available scholarships will also be advertised on all program or event announcements and publications; including, but not limited to, newspaper advertisements, radio announcements, school district and/or park district publications, and flyers or posters posted locally.

1e. Copies of Announcement Materials. N/A – No scholarships have yet been awarded

1f. Sample Copy of the Application. Please see attached Application

2. Case Histories. We keep case histories of all scholarship awards.

3. Specific criteria for scholarship eligibility:

- i. Full time resident of Gunnison County, CO
- ii. Program for which scholarship is requested is aligned with MRFP mission and objectives

4a. Specific criteria for recipient selection:

- i. Scholarships are awarded with no discrimination or preference regarding race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, veteran status, language, disability, or immigration status.
- ii. For need-based scholarships, the level of financial need as demonstrated on the financial affidavit (attached)
- iii. Demonstrated interest in Mountain Roots Food Project and in the event or program for which the applicant is applying
- iv. Demonstrated intent to utilize the skills/knowledge gained in part for the benefit of the Gunnison Valley Community

4b. Number. The number of scholarships and amount given is determined by available funds at the beginning of each fiscal year.

4c. Amounts. Currently, scholarships shall not exceed \$500 per individual.

4d. Requirements Imposed. For Tuition Remission scholarships with partner organizations, MRFP has a formal review process in place for all scholarship recipients whereby the partner organization reports on attendance and performance of scholarship recipients. All “Venture Grant” recipients receive 50% of the scholarship in advance along with a “Venture Grant” contract (attached). The remaining 50% “Venture Grant” funds to be distributed upon full completion of all terms of the “Venture Grant” contract, per a review by the scholarship committee.

5. Supervising. See 4d above.

6. Selection Committee. The Scholarship Evaluation Committee is made up of the Committee Chair who must be a MRFP Board Member, an additional MRFP Board Member, and at least one member of the community who is not a MRFP board member. Current Committee members include: Renee Brekke-Ebbott and Eric MacPhail of Gunnison, CO.

7. Eligibility of selection committee, officers, directors, or substantial contributors. Yes, if and only if the applicant meets all the standard eligibility criteria and requirements above, and if the applicant and / or their parent are not on the selection committee at time of the applicant’s review.